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A Trip to the Theater



DEBORAH
LOCK



Level 2

Dinosaur Dinners
Fire Fighter!
Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!
Slinky, Scaly Snakes!
Animal Hospital
The Little Ballerina
Munching, Crunching, Sniffing,
and Snooping
The Secret Life of Trees
Winking, Blinking, Wiggling,
and Wagging
Astronaut: Living in Space
Twisters!
Holiday! Celebration Days
around the World
The Story of Pocahontas
Horse Show
Survivors: The Night the Titanic
Sank
Eruption! The Story of Volcanoes
The Story of Columbus
Journey of a Humpback Whale
Amazing Buildings
Feathers, Flippers, and Feet

Level 3

Spacebusters: The Race to the Moon
Beastly Tales
Shark Attack!
Titanic
Invaders from Outer Space
Movie Magic
Plants Bite Back!
Time Traveler
Bermuda Triangle
Tiger Tales
Aladdin
Heidi
Zeppelin: The Age of the Airship
Spies
Terror on the Amazon
Disasters at Sea
The Story of Anne Frank
Abraham Lincoln: Lawyer, Leader,
Legend
George Washington: Soldier, Hero,
President
Extreme Sports

Outback Adventure: Australian
Vacation
Sniffles, Sneezes, Hiccups, and
Coughs
Ice Skating Stars
Let's Go Riding
I Want to Be a Gymnast
Starry Sky
Earth Smart: How to Take Care
of the Environment
Water Everywhere
Telling Time
A Trip to the Theater
LEGO: Castle Under Attack
LEGO: Rocket Rescue
Star Wars: Journey Through Space
Star Wars: A Queen's Diary
MLB: A Batboy's Day
MLB: Let's Go to the Ballpark!
Spider-Man: Worst Enemies
Meet the X-Men
¡Insectos! *en español*
¡Bomberos! *en español*
La Historia de Pocahontas *en español*

Spiders' Secrets
The Big Dinosaur Dig
Space Heroes: Amazing Astronauts
The Story of Chocolate
School Days Around the World
Polar Bear Alert!
NFL: Whiz Kid Quarterbacks
MLB: Home Run Heroes: Big Mac,
Sammy, and Junior
MLB: World Series Heroes
MLB: Record Breakers
MLB: Down to the Wire: Baseball's
Great Pennant Races
Star Wars: Star Pilot
Star Wars: I want to be a Jedi
The X-Men School
Abraham Lincoln: Abogado, Líder,
Leyenda *en español*
Al Espacio: La Carrera a la Luna
en español
Fantastic Four: The World's Greatest
Superteam

Theater Facts

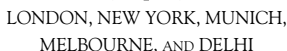
The ancient Greeks performed their plays in large outdoor theaters called amphitheaters. The actors wore masks to represent their characters.

Medieval plays were first performed on wagons in large outdoor marketplaces.

Later, open-air playhouses were built. Audiences sat or stood on three sides of the stage. Hardly any scenery was used.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, plays were performed in fully lit rooms. The stage had a decorative frame around it.

Today, audiences sit in the dark, watching the performance on a lit stage. Plays may have lots of scenery and special effects. Some famous plays are made into movies.



Reading Consultant
Linda Gambrell, Ph.D.

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The production of *Flat Stanley* featured was produced by West Yorkshire Playhouse and Polka Theatre in 2006-7. Based on the story by Jeff Brown with illustrations by Scott Nash and adapted for the stage by Mike Kenny. It was directed by Gail McIntyre, designed by Karen Tennent, lighting design by Ian Scott, animation by John Barber, composition by Julian Ronnie and sound design by Martin Pickersgill. The original cast were Ian Bonar, Stewart Cairns, Lisa Howard, and Robin Simpson.

Flat Stanley is published by Egmont in the UK and by HarperCollins in the United States.

With thanks also to all of Polka Theatre, Wimbledon, London, www.polkatheatre.com, including Chris Barham, James Cartwright, Anwen Cooper, Hélène Hill, Tim Highman, Paula Hopkins, Anne James, Kim Kish, Ben Powell-Williams, and Mary Trafford.

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 READERS

OL BEGINNING
2
TO READ ALONE

A Trip to the Theater

Written by Deborah Lock



DK Publishing





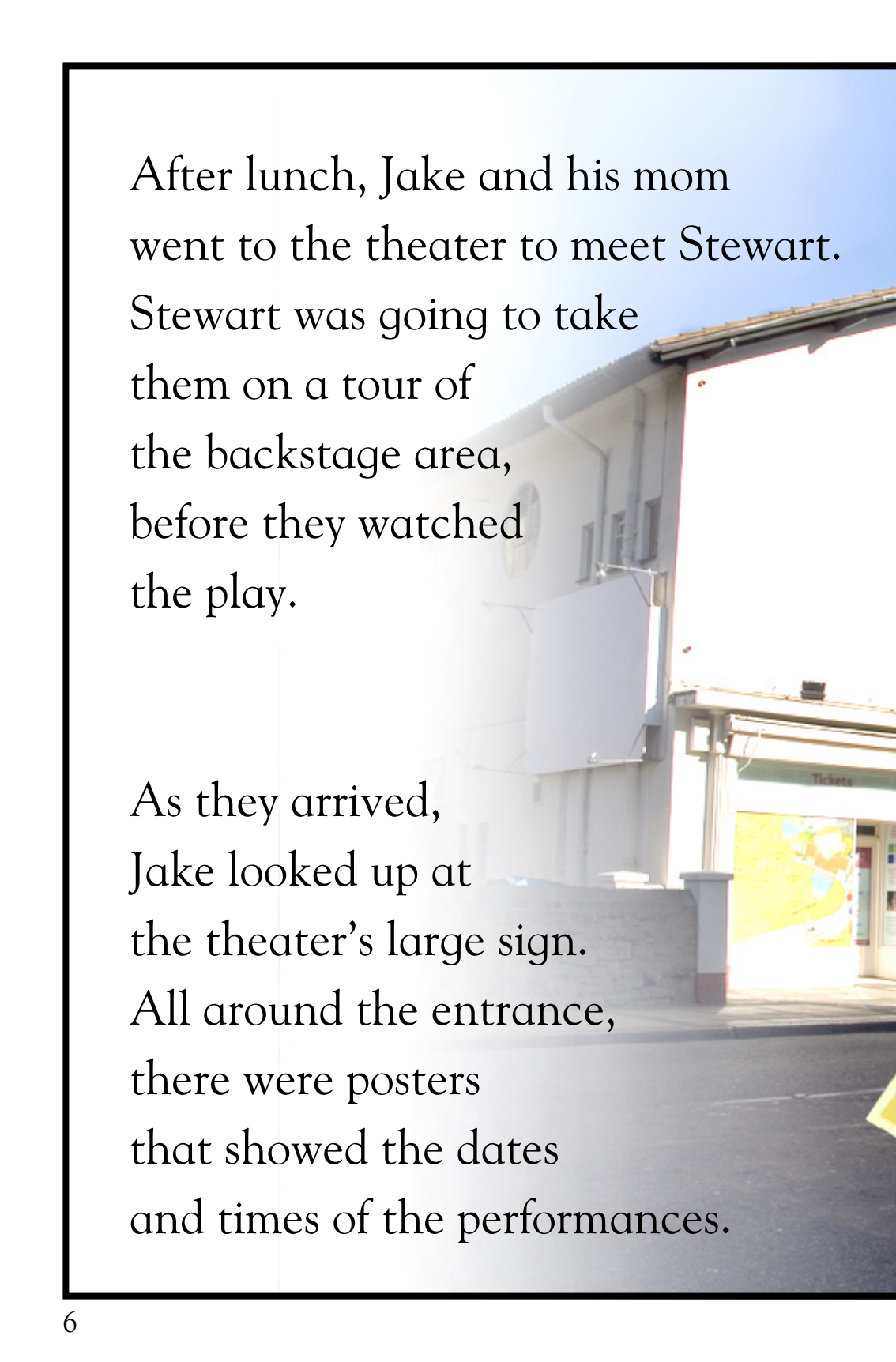
All morning, Jake was very excited.

“I can’t wait to see Uncle Stewart in his play today,”

Jake told his mom for the third time.

Jake’s uncle was an actor in a theater group.

The group travels around the country, performing in theaters.

A photograph of a theater building. The building is light-colored with a dark roof. A large, light-colored sign is mounted on the side of the building. To the right, there is a ticket booth with a sign that says "Tickets". A large, colorful poster is displayed in the window of the ticket booth. The sky is clear and blue.

After lunch, Jake and his mom went to the theater to meet Stewart. Stewart was going to take them on a tour of the backstage area, before they watched the play.

As they arrived, Jake looked up at the theater's large sign. All around the entrance, there were posters that showed the dates and times of the performances.





Jake eagerly pushed open the doors and stepped into the theater lobby.

His mom went to the box office to buy two tickets for the play.

Then Stewart came to meet them.
“Hello, Jake,” said Stewart
with a beaming smile.
“Welcome to the theater.
Let me show you around.”



“I’ll show you the auditorium first,” said Stewart, leading the way.

“This is where you’ll sit to watch our performance.”

“Wow, it’s big,” Jake gasped, as he looked at all the seats.

“Yes, there are 300 seats,” explained Stewart.

“At the top is the control room where the sound-and-lighting operator sits during the play.”

Stage lighting

Lights shine onto the actors on stage. Different shades and colors help change the mood of a play.





“The stage is set up for my favorite scene,” said Stewart. “This is the park where my character flies his kite.”





“What are the trees, kites, and boats made from?” asked Jake.

“Just painted wood and paper,” said Stewart.

“Let’s go backstage and I’ll show you where they were made.”

Stewart led Jake and his mom through a door into the backstage area.

“This is the workshop,” said Stewart.

“Our prop manager, Ben, makes the scenery and props here.”

“What are props?” asked Jake.

“They are the objects that actors use on stage,” said Stewart.

Fake food

Food props are often made from foam, clay, wire mesh, or paper, and then painted to look real.





“Next, I’ll show you where our costumes are made,” said Stewart. They entered a room full of colorful clothes, hats, wigs, and jewelry. “This is Sue,” said Stewart. “She designs the costumes we wear in our plays.”



“Would you like to try on this police officer’s costume?” Sue asked Jake. “Yes, please,” replied Jake. Jake laughed at his reflection in the mirror.



Costume designer

Costumes are based on sketches drawn by the costume designer. She chooses the styles and fabrics to suit the play.





“Now let’s take a look at the area behind the stage,” said Stewart.

As they walked downstairs, they met James, the director.

“Hi, Stewart,” said James.

“Are you ready for the show?

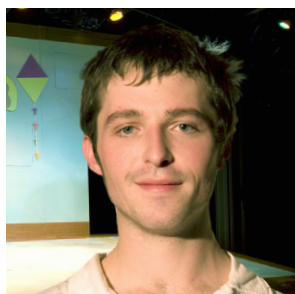
The final rehearsal went really well yesterday.”

“What’s a rehearsal?” asked Jake.

“It’s a practice performance of the play,” explained Stewart.

Director

The director oversees every part of the play. He helps everyone work together to make the show a success.



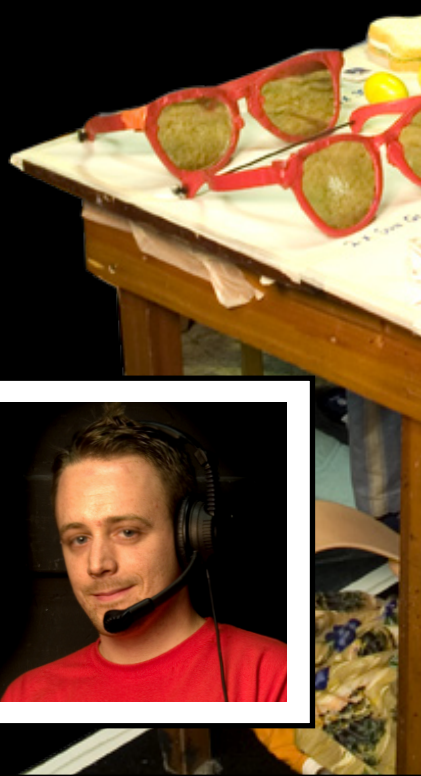
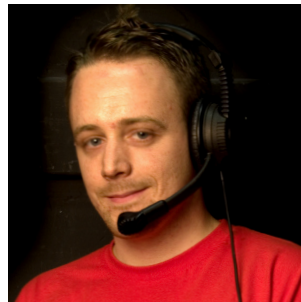
It was very dark behind the stage.
“This is Chris, the stage manager,”
said Stewart.

“What are you doing?” asked Jake.
“I’m making sure that all the props
and costumes are in the right
place,” replied Chris.

“We need to know exactly where
they are so that we
can find them quickly
during the play,”
added Stewart.

Stage manager

The stage manager
makes sure everything is
running smoothly during
the performance, both
onstage and backstage.





“In this show, some of the actors play more than one character,” explained Chris.

“They have to change quickly from one costume to another.”



“The actor who plays the father also plays a doctor, a security guard, and a policeman!” Stewart added.

“I’ll look out for him in the play,” said Jake.

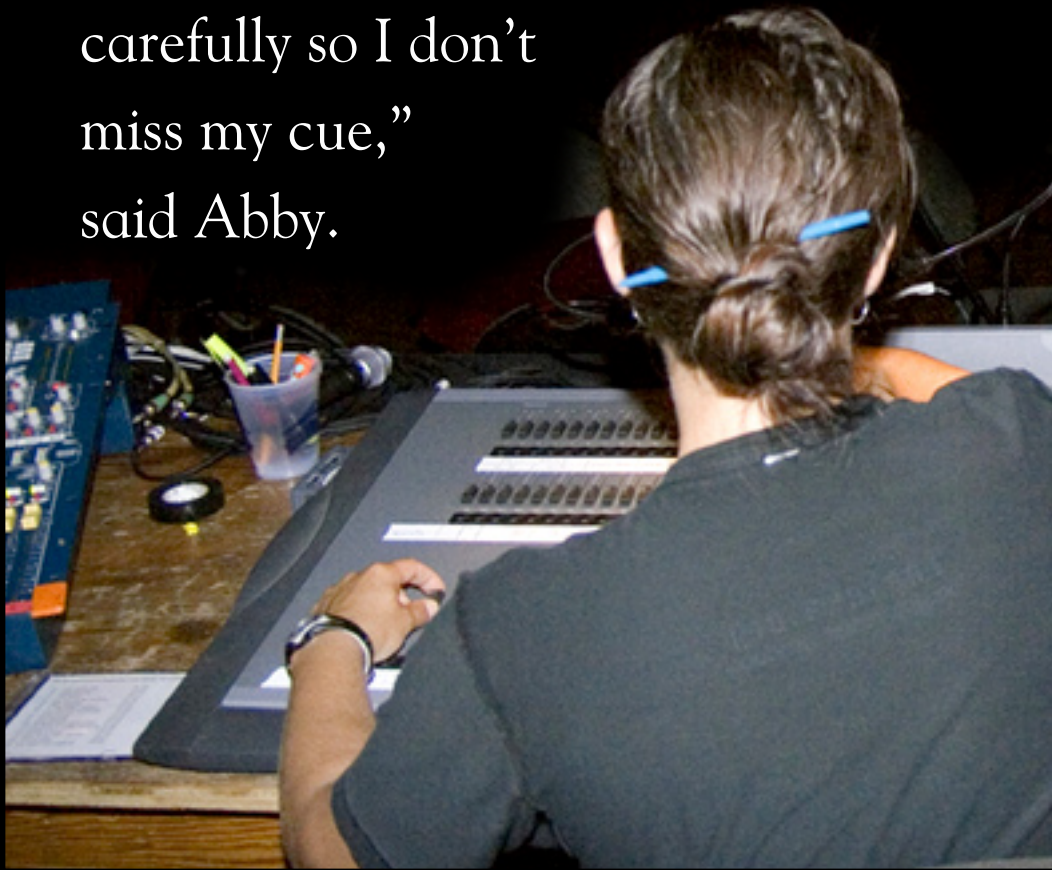
“If we hurry, we’ll have time to see the control room,” said Stewart.

“Follow me.”



“This is Abby, the operator,” said Stewart, as they entered the control room. “During the performance, she uses the control panel to change the lighting and create sound effects.”

“I have to follow the script carefully so I don’t miss my cue,” said Abby.



“It’s time for me to get ready,”
said Stewart, checking his watch.



“Come and see my dressing room,” said Stewart. They entered a room filled with mirrors surrounded by bright lights. “I sit here to put on my makeup,” explained Stewart.



“We should go find our seats,” said Jake’s mom. “Good luck, Stewart.” “Sometimes people say ‘break a leg’ instead of ‘good luck’ to actors before a show,” explained Stewart. “Break a leg,” laughed Jake.





“Now it’s time to get into character,” thought Stewart. He started to put on his makeup.

“I think I need more color on my chin,” he said.





Next, he painted his lips and cheeks a rosy red and added black freckles with a thin paintbrush. Finally, Stewart pinned on his orange wig. “Perfect!” he said. He put on his costume and headed off to the stage.





Meanwhile, Jake and his mom were sitting in the auditorium, surrounded by chattering people. Suddenly, the lights faded, the audience stopped talking, and the music began. The play was about the adventures of a boy, who was played by Stewart.



Mom bought Jake some candy during the intermission.

In the second half, Stewart's character caught a burglar.

It was very exciting.

At the end, the actors bowed to the audience.

Jake clapped very loudly.

"That was fantastic!" he said.



A Note to Parents

DK READERS is a compelling program for beginning readers, designed in conjunction with leading literacy experts, including Dr. Linda Gambrell, Distinguished Professor of Education at Clemson University. Dr. Gambrell has served as President of the National Reading Conference, the College Reading Association, and the International Reading Association.

Beautiful illustrations and superb full-color photographs combine with engaging, easy-to-read stories to offer a fresh approach to each subject in the series. Each DK READER is guaranteed to capture a child's interest while developing his or her reading skills, general knowledge, and love of reading.

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- Level 1:** Beginning to read
- Level 2:** Beginning to read alone
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- Level 4:** Proficient readers

The “normal” age at which a child begins to read can be anywhere from three to eight years old. Adult participation through the lower levels is very helpful for providing encouragement, discussing storylines, and sounding out unfamiliar words.

No matter which level you select, you can be sure that you are helping your child learn to read, then read to learn!



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 **READERS**

My name is

I have read this book



Date

Jake and his mom are going to the theater. Take a look backstage at all the scenery, props, and costumes.



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Jacket images *Front:* Punchstock:
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